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LA VERSION GRECQUE DES LIVRES DE SAMUEL ; précédée d'une introduction sur la critique textuelle. Par J. MÉRITAN. Paris : Maisonneuve, 1898. Pp. xii + 248.

THE names of a group of French Catholic scholars will always be associated with the beginnings of modern biblical criticism, and it is gratifying to find countrymen of Richard Simon, such as the Abbé Loisy and his fellow-laborers, taking the lead in the revival of these studies among Catholics, of which there are such encouraging signs both in Europe and America.

The volume before us is a product of this movement. In the introduction the author sketches the history of text criticism since the beginning of the seventeenth century (Louis Cappel); illustrates by examples from Samuel the necessity of emendation; briefly enumerates the *subsidia critica*; and lays down certain general canons of criticism. The first part treats of the Greek version in general (Codices A and B, the Hexapla, Lucian); the second is a study of the divergences exhibited by the Greek text (additions, omissions, substitutions, transpositions, conjectural passages); the third discusses the critical defects of the Septuagint.

Critics have worked diligently at the text of Samuel since the days of Thenius; beside the monographs of Wellhausen and Driver, Budde has edited the text (1894), and more recently Löhner and Smith, in their commentaries, have given much attention to textual problems. M. Méritan's little volume would not claim a place among these works. His aim is to acquaint his readers with the method and results of criticism, not to make an original contribution to it. His material, in the main, is drawn from Wellhausen and Driver—in general, judiciously chosen and clearly presented. Unfortunately, the author's knowledge of Hebrew and Greek appears to be inadequate even for the modest task he has undertaken. His pages swarm with errors, which cannot all be charged to the much-abused compositor. Greek accents are habitually misplaced, and an index to the author's attitude toward these troublesome signs is to be found in the fact that, while his quotations from Codex B are accented, those from Codex A are uniformly printed without accents because its readings are so exhibited in Swete's apparatus. The collations are in other and more material respects extremely inaccurate. The Hebrew is as bad as the Greek, if not worse; the confusion of gutturals, particularly, is truly Galilean. It is to be regretted that a work which might otherwise have served a useful purpose should

be so marred by faults which revision of the proofs by any competent scholar would have removed.

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AUSGEWÄHLTE AKADEMISCHE REDEN UND ABHANDLUNGEN. Von D. BERNHARD STADE, Geh. Kirchenrath und Professor der Theologie in Giessen. Giessen: J. Ricker'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1899. Pp. vi + 296. M. 6.

PROFESSOR STADE'S contributions to the theological literature of his day make a notable collection. In addition to the editing of his *Zeitschrift*, already covering two decades; his *Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, and his *Hebräisches Wörterbuch*, he has made extensive contributions to periodical literature. This collection is made up of five addresses delivered on different public occasions, three critical articles on 2 Kings, and three brief *Beiträge zur Pentateuchkritik*. These have all appeared previously in printed form, and are now reprinted because they are sought for and out of print. The author states in the preface that they appear in practically the original form, with a few corrections only. The first address, "Über die Lage der evangelischen Kirche Deutschlands," is a vigorous argument for a reconstruction of evangelical theology, to meet the demands of the day, as against the ideals of the Roman church. The second address, "Die messianische Hoffnung im Psalter," is a cursory examination of the psalms to discover and formulate the Messianic hope which so mightily influenced the Jewish faithful in post-exilic times. The third address, "Über die Aufgabe der biblischen Theologie des Alten Testaments," avers that the task of biblical theology of the Old Testament is broader than a mere formulation of the ethical content of the Old Testament books. This it must do, but it should thoroughly examine the fundamental ideas in the old covenant that underlie the Christian ideas of later times; it should also show how the preaching of the prophets and the history of Israel culminated in a well-defined Judaism, and finally found its focal-point in the preaching and doctrines of Jesus. The fourth address discusses "Die Entstehung des Volkes Israel," and the fifth "Das Volk Javan." The text-critical discussions of 2 Kings are here brought together from various issues of Stade's *Zeitschrift*. Reprinted contributions of this kind, though miscellaneous in their make-up, are a useful profile of the individual scholarship that lies behind them.

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